

The OSCILLATOR

Volume 29 Issue 1
January 2006

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

KK7TN PARAGRAPHS Don Stettler KK7TN

You would think someone of my age and experience would know better than to try this for fear I'll miss someone but I am going to try anyway. I want to acknowledge and give a special thanks to the many in the club that made 2005 a successful

OTVARC year.

- Naomi Ballard for taking on the Annual Holiday Dinner and making it such a success.
- Janet Bell and John Anderson for putting on technician license training classes.
- Verne Green and David Hart for stepping forward to take on planning and executing Field Day.
- Carl Clawson and Kevin Bersch for conducting the monthly Volunteer Examiner test sessions.
- Carl Clawson for his dogged management of the Mickley Memorial Scholarship.
- Wes Allen for his vigil and maintenance of the club repeaters.
- Will Sheffield, Al Berg, Wayne Schuler, and a host of others who planned and carried out the SeaPac 2005

See PARAGRAPHS, Page 7

SILENT KEYS

Greg Milnes W7OZ

Pat Kusch KD5PZO

We note with sorrow the passing of two members of OTVARC. Both succumbed to heart attacks in December. Pat Kusch KD5PZO passed away December 10 while Greg Milnes W7OZ died on December 17.

Pat was active in ARES and served as Web Designer for OTVARC. She was known for her wit and honesty. She is survived by her companion, Kevin Rock

See SK, Page 3

Happy JANUARY Birthday

- 1 WN7O Robert Crocker
- 2 KA7RNO Gordon Bishop
- 6 N7THL Will Sheffield
- W7DSA Arnold Jensen
- 8 KA5OLH Rick Schouweiler
- W7AFR Bob Scott
- KE7BTY Ted Geroux
- 13 W7AYL Marti Brutcher
- 18 W7ILS George Brennfleck
- 19 KD7FUZ Darlene Young
- 22 KA7MIE Jo Orr
- 23 WB7ARB Phillip Ricker
- 24 KC7SNQ Dana Johnson
- KA7HOJ Jack Smithson
- 27 KA7TZT Marvel Noyes
- KD5ONS Kevin Rock

Updates and corrections to
w6abm@arrl.net

CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, January 11

We'll travel back in time this month in order to visit with Stanley Hamm, sometimes a presenter at SEA-PAC in earlier days. Stan Griffiths W7NI will be our guide.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Beaverton Elks' Lodge, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Guests are welcome. Come at 6:00 PM to enjoy a no-host dinner from the Elks' Buffet.

See you on January 11th. Bring or invite a guest.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are comfortable with financial records...or know a member who is...the club is looking for names from which two audit committees will be formed. The work will involve audit of 2005 Club and the 2004 and 2005 SEA-PAC Financial Records

Don Stettler is your contact, or leave an email at w7otv@arrl.net.

CLUB ADDRESS:

880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

YOUTH RADIO CLUB ASSISTANCE

This is a special thank you to all the people who came up to me after the meeting to offer assistance in getting our elementary school radio program started. I recently began working for West Tualatin View Elementary in the Beaverton School District. The parents and students have expressed interest in starting a school amateur radio club. I hoped to model a new club after our Oregon City School Club which has been so successful these past 3 years in starting youth in ham radio. You have probably heard many of these students, such as Ethan KE7DUX, Nevin KE7BND, Michael KE7DPC, and my own son, Patrick KC7ZZV, on the 146.96 Sunday night Youth Net.

I have tried for two grants, but up to this point have been unable to secure the funds to build a station. After the Christmas party MANY people came up to me to offer support in the way of equipment loans, donations, and cash. Your generosity is overwhelming to me.

We now have a new Yaesu FT-7800R which will allow us work VHF/UHF this year as a club. Thank you Debbie Schlueter! The \$50.00 Alinco gift certificate we won goes toward a power supply.

Thank you Wes, Stan, and all who offered help.

As soon as we get an antenna up, we hope to contact many of you on the air so the kids can thank you personally!

This club and its' members have always been so supportive of our youth with the Mickley Scholarship Fund, and by donating used HTs and mobile stations to help new hams get started. You share the W7OTV Repeater and allow us to run the Youth Net on Sunday nights, and now you enable us to start collecting equipment for a new amateur radio station at West Tualatin View Elementary School. Thank you.

I'm proud to be a part of this club!

Jill Mohr KC7ZZY

Wilderness Protocol

Recently, I found a book by fellow Floridian Reid Tillery, KG4YFE. An avid hiker and camper, he has a section in his book about radio use for those traveling in wild areas. Part of it covered the "Wilderness Protocol for Amateur Radio." In February 1994 QST, William Alsup, N6XMW, put forth this idea: a set of VHF and UHF frequencies and a basic schedule for monitoring the frequencies for contact from Amateur Radio operators in wilderness areas.

The primary frequency band proposed was two-meters with secondary frequencies on six-meters, 1.25-meters, 70-centimeters, and 23-centimeters. I expect by no coincidence, the simplex frequencies N6XMW suggested are also the National Simplex Calling frequencies or the Primary Simplex frequency for the bands in his proposal. The frequencies for the Wilderness Protocol are 52.525 MHz, 146.520 MHz, 223.500 MHz, 446.000 MHz and, 1294.500 MHz.

The proposed schedule for monitoring the frequencies is every three hours on the hour starting at 7:00 AM local time until 7:00 PM local time. For those radio amateurs with more time or a scanner, monitoring more often is encouraged. The basic schedule gives someone who is out of cellular service range and not able to contact a repeater a specific time when someone should be listening to get word to the proper authorities in the event of an emergency situation.

The base monitoring time is 5 minutes. I also found suggestions to start monitoring 5 minutes before the hour every other time so that minor differences on the clock of monitoring hams and hams in the woods would not cause them to miss each other.

Making daily contact with a hiker to know an extended hike is going without incident, or to pass routine traffic to and from family was another suggested use for hams with opportunity to monitor the Wilderness Protocol frequencies regularly.

It occurred to me that having hams following the Wilderness Protocol can be of use to more than hikers and campers.

SEE PROTOCOL Page 8

December ARRL 10-Meter Contest

The ARRL sponsored a 10-meter contest on December 10th and 11th. Not having heard anyone on this band for months, I accepted the "common wisdom" that 10-meters is "dead," at the bottom of the solar cycle, but I decided to try working the contest anyway.

Tuning the lower end of the band on Saturday about 10:30 AM gave me a big surprise. Strong signals from Kentucky and Tennessee were all over the place. Later, the strongest stations shifted to the southeast into Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. At one point nearly every station heard was located in Mississippi.

Around 1:00 PM, stateside signals faded away to be replaced by South America, with good propagation into Argentina and Brazil. By 2:00 PM the fun was over with fading signals and QRM.

Sunday I started to monitor the band earlier, but heard nothing until after 10:00 AM. Several stations heard Saturday but not worked then, went into the log book on Sunday. This time domestic and DX stations could be heard together. States including Georgia, West Virginia, Virginia and Ohio could all be easily worked. DX again was from the south, including Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica and Aruba.

Around 1:00 PM Sunday the fun was finally over. Stations still could be heard, but not successfully contacted anymore. Eventually everyone slowly faded away. Final total for Amateur Radio Station KD7VIK: A two day total of 50 completed QSO's, 17 different states and 7 countries, including a total of 9 QSO's with Argentine stations.

A lesson in HF propagation, learned here, is that a band like 10-meters might be open at times, but if no one tries calling, it really will be "dead". In the future I'll be checking for beacon stations from time to time.

73

Ron O'Connor
KD7VIK

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SK, from Page 1

KD5ONS. Communications to Kevin may be sent to: 31380 NW Buxton Lookout Rd, Buxton OR 97109-8706.

Greg was a past president of OTVARC and at the time of his death was serving as Northwestern Division Director for ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio, a position he held since 1998. His vocational background included service as an attorney for the Federal Communications Commission and service as a Washington County District and Circuit Court Judge. He retired in 1999 but continued to respond to calls for jurists in his role as a Senior Judge.

W7OZ will be remembered as an advocate for amateur radio, a very-able master of ceremonies for SEA-PAC banquets, and for his encouragement to amateur radio leadership. He is survived by his wife of forty-two years, Loretta. Your communications to Loretta and her family may be sent to:

740 SE 24th Ave
Hillsboro OR 97123-7286

VOLUNTEER EXAM SESSIONS

Carl Clawson WS7L, and Kevin Bersch KE7VIN, are VE team leaders for OTVARC. We offer monthly exams on the first Saturday at 1:00 PM. At Ronler Acres Fire Station, 4455 NW 229th Ave, Hillsboro, across from Hillsboro Stadium.

Pre-register for exams by contacting Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

Check the OTVARC Web www.otvarc.org/ve for more information.

There are other exam opportunities in the area. Email to w7otv@arrl.net for locations and times.

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

18 Feb 2006
26th Annual Salem HamFair
 Rickreall, Oregon
 Polk County Fairgrounds
 Salem Repeater Association
<http://www.qsl.net/w7sra/>
 PO BOX 17803
 SALEM, OR 97305
 Phone: 503.507.6523
 Email: wc7m@arrl.net

11 Mar 2006
Electronics Show & Fleamarket
 Puyallup, Washington
 Pavilion Exhibition Hall
 Western Washington Fairgrounds
 Mike and Key ARC
<http://www.eskimo.com/~mwdink/fleainfo.html>
 Michael Dinkelman, N7WA
 22222 148th Avenue SE
 Kent, WA 98042
 Phone: 253-631-3756
 Email: mwdink@eskimo.com

16 - 18 June 2006
SEA-PAC '06
 Seaside, Oregon
 Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
<http://www.seapac.org>
 Box 25466
 Portland OR 97298-0466
 Will Sheffield N7THL
n7thl@arrl.net

LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday January 28, 2006
1:30 PM

Black Bear Diner
 13435 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy
 Corner of TV Highway and Hocken

Questions?

Linda Sutton KC7YTD
kb7pvw@arrl.net or 503.246.8879

TRAVELERS'

For
 The Next Event

CONTACT:

Betty Mickley N7REX
n7rex@teleport.com

PROTECTING YOUR ANTENNA SYSTEM

An antenna system may be protected from lightning damage by grounding all antennae when not in use. This simple measure is the single most neglected action to protect against storm damage. Removing the antenna from each rig when not in use is the second action needed for basic lightning protection.

Lightning is not the only threat to your station. Always be sure your antenna and feed lines are well clear of any power lines whether mains along roadways, right-of-ways, or feeders for your home or your neighbors'.



"Start the New Year off right, be kind to your lips!"

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mcorourke@netzero.net

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TEN HOURS TO GENERAL CLASS

The Salem Amateur Radio Club would like to help you get your General Class License. Jeff Crabill KK7LU will be teaching a ten hour weekend course on the second weekend of January (January 12 – 14) at the Salem Airport Fire Station. The Training Classroom is found on the west side of the airport at 2742 SE 25th Street. Sessions will be held on Friday evening from 6:30 to 9:00 PM and reconvene on Saturday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Preregistration is required for these sessions. You may contact Jeff Crabell to complete registration at 503.587.8892 or by email at kk7lu@arrl.net. There is a \$ 50.00 fee for the classes. The General Class exam will be included. No morse code in these sessions.

RENEWAL CONTINUES

Annual membership renewal continues in January. All current members should have received update information in December. If you need another copy of your renewal update, email w7otv@arrl.net and ask for one. Membership in Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club for 2006 is \$18.00 (regular member) and \$ 23.00 (family/household). Dues unpaid by January 31, 2006 are delinquent.

Regular and Family Membership is open to any licensed amateur radio operator. Non-licensed persons are invited to join as Associate Members. Associate Members hold all rights and privileges except the right to hold office or vote for officers and trustees. New Member Applications are \$ 20.00 which includes an application fee.

Contributions from Life Members for Scholarship, Repeater, or General use are encouraged. We encourage Life Members to review and update their information with the club annually.

Use the club's postal address:

Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
880 NE 25TH AVE STE 2-160
HILLSBORO OR 97124-6258

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Donald Stettler KK7TN
503.649.6013 kk7tn@arrl.net

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Secretary Steven Ward KE7EIQ
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503.531.3721 wes@controltek.com

Pat Colton KC7TOA
503.641.3930 plcolton@juno.com

Trustees—Class of 2007
Robert Crocker WN7O
503.524.7547 krcrocker@verizon.net

Phil Kane K2ASP
503.292.2350 k2asp@arrl.net

Will Sheffield N7THL
503.642.7314 n7thl@arrl.net

CLIP and save for reference
This Information available at www.otvarc.org

Thanks to Dick Rutledge KE7BOS and Joel Simmons KE7ANV for their interest in serving as trustees in our recent election, and to Dick KE7BOS and Rick KD7THV for their service on the 2005 Board.

DC POWER

We know how to make connections

Wes Allen, K7WWG President
665 SW 167th Ave. 503-531-4081
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

LESSONS FROM THE GULF STORMS

Could anyone have predicted the widespread damage from Katrina and Rita? Yes, emergency plans by government and business were in place. Amateur Radio had ARES and RACES drills with storms as the exercise-cause. No one thought of these efforts as "too little."

The regional scope of the emergency overwhelmed everyone. Yet, Amateur Radio was there, even when restricted in response by agencies who thought we were "too primitive" to be of much use. The Red Cross and Salvation Army did not hesitate to call for the help of their Amateur Radio auxiliaries. Individual hams inside the damage-area responded with dedication and courage. Hams outside the area helped the way they always do!

The question is, how ready are individual hams in our community and club? Here are some of the things we might do this winter to be ready for an emergency at home.

- **Transportation** – do we know the way in-and-out of our town and county without the use of major highways? What maps do we keep ready? Have we traveled the alternate routes so we know them personally? What are they like in heavy rain, wind, ice, etc.?
- **Regional Knowledge** – do we know how various communities depend on one another for fuel, electricity, natural gas, groceries, etc.? We may need to get supplies in an emergency from neighbors in nearby (or distant) counties. They may need our supplies to make it through the immediate emergency. I am reminded of the Vernonia floods of a few years ago and how important our communication links were to them.
- **Do we understand communications paths** that do not depend on repeaters? Simplex communications become important in an emergency. Which repeaters have back-up and emergency power? Do we know which machines to use for VHF and UHF communication in an emergency? Can we link via repeaters in neighboring counties?
- **Do you know what safe evacuation routes** are open to you? What communication needs will these routes present? We were in Seaside for last year's earthquake and tsunami threat. We did not hear the warning sirens and the Weather Service links were down between Portland and the coast...so no warning through the SAME system. We had the station set up and could monitor 3993.5 KHz and the State Emergency Operations Center in Salem, so Amateur Radio worked when everything else was failing.

- **Are you tied to power mains?** What emergency communications are you equipped to provide if there is a long-term (more than 72 hour) power failure? Do you test your battery system and/or gas generator regularly (at least once each month)? Do you have cables already built to use automobile batteries for short term power?
- **Do you have a supply of batteries** for your Broadcast radio? It may supply the only information you have from official sources. The newer "wind up" and solar broadcast radios are reasonable in price. Every home should have one.
- **Oil lamps and camp lights** provide a reasonable source of lighting at night. You need to have supplies of oil and propane if you plan to use them for very long.
- **How are you doing with a cache of supplies** (food, water, first aid)? You need to have 72 hours worth at minimum. Rotate the water supply and food, no matter what type of containers they are in. It's a safety matter...and it reminds you of what you have and what you need.
- **Do you have a way to cook food** without basic utilities? We lived for two weeks cooking on a camp stove during the emergency generated by the Sylmar earthquake in 1971. We had a supply of fuel that lasted us through the emergency.
- **Provide emergency evacuation and contact plans** to everyone in your home old enough to remember it! Where will you go if you have to leave your home for a week...a month...or longer? Who is your "out-of-area" contact point? My brother in California is our non-local point-of-contact. No matter where we are, or how we make the contact, we know that he will provide information to other family members and friends about where we are...and how we are. We do that for him as well.

See LESSONS, Page 7

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SuitSat on 145.990 MHz

Now is the time to begin preparing your amateur radio station to receive signals from *SuitSat*, the most unusual Amateur Radio satellite ever orbited. *SuitSat* amateur radio equipment will be installed inside a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit. It will become an independently orbiting satellite once it is deployed by the crew of the International Space Station during an extravehicular activity, tentatively planned for February 2nd, 2006.

Running only on internal batteries within the spacesuit, *SuitSat* will have a limited, but interesting lifetime beaming down special messages and an SSTV image as it floats in space. Having no external thrust to adjust its orbit after it is hand-deployed during the EVA, *SuitSat* will be in a free-floating, but decaying orbit around Earth. It is expected to remain in orbit up to 6 weeks after being deployed.

SuitSat in it's flight configuration may be seen at the Web address below. You can see the electronics control panel on the top of the helmet along with the *SuitSat* antenna. A new handle has been added around the midsection of the suit (black stripes). The handle is an important addition that will allow the astro/cosmonaut launching the suit to move it safely.

SuitSat's transmissions will include international voice messages, spacesuit telemetry, and a pre-programmed SSTV picture on its 145.990 MHz FM downlink. If you have already received the packet station or heard the ISS crew on 2-meter voice, then you already have most of what you need. Amateur radio signals from the ISS can be received with a 2 meter vertical antenna so an elaborate tracking system is not necessary. The SSTV signal can be decoded with personal computer SSTV software after you connect your computer to the speaker output of your radio.

The complete article and *SuitSat* photographs at:
www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/SuitSat/

- Thanks to AMSAT

PARAGRAPHS, from Page 1

Northwestern Division Convention.

- Pat Kusch, SK, for her work on the club's web page.
- Mel Sutton for faithfully attending to the club drawings.
- Linda Sutton for locating an appropriate restaurant monthly for Lunch Bunch and keeping track of club members' health and welfare.
- Richard Booth for arranging for club badges.
- Claire Johnson, John Anderson, and Phil Kane, the elections committee finding candidates for the board.
- Officers Everett Curry, Alvin Carlson, and Dick Rutledge and Trustees Wes Allen, Rick Banton, Pat Colton, Robert Crocker, and Phil Kane for their faithful attendance of board meetings and careful attention to club affairs.
- Everett Curry for quick action to take advantage opportunities that arise for the club, editing and distributing The OSCILLATOR, and programs for monthly club meetings, and so much more.
- Jim Schaeffer managing the Fifth Wednesday Events.
- Betty Mickley and Geno Buell for their faithful work with The TRAVELERS'.
- Randy Stimson for finding public service events that club members can participate.
- J.D. Fort, Michael Darnell, and Darlene Johnson for managing the club's equipment.
- A variety of members who help us stay current on ARES planning and events

The success of the club is highly dependent upon the involvement of its members. I urge all members to get involved during 2006. You can make a difference. Best wishes for a great 2006.

Don KK7TN

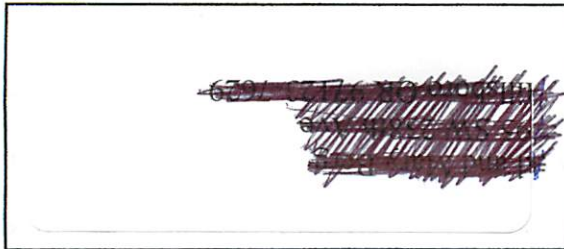
LESSONS—from Page 6

We linked our cousins in eastern Texas with their Oklahoma family during Rita. They had a place to go and people who cared about them while they were away from home.

You may think of other matters that should be included in this discussion. Why not share them and we'll do a follow up article later in the year with your additions.

Everett W6ABM

CLUB MEETING JANUARY 11TH



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Web: WWW.OTVARC.ORG
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Simplex: 147.54 MHz
Repeaters: 146.96 MHz
440.350 MHz (127.3)
Editor: Everett W6ABM
w6abm@arrl.net

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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SEA PAC

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION
ARRL CONVENTION
www.seapac.org

June 16, 17 & 18, 2006

PROTOCOL From Page 2

Throughout the country hams are on the road traveling for business and pleasure. While cellular phones have become a common belt-looped appliance, there are many locations where "no signal" is the only message they will display. Vehicle accidents, mechanical failures, and worse can happen along any stretch of road.

So whether you are near a national forest, a large wooded park, or on the outer edge of suburbia, monitoring at least the primary two-meter frequency of the Amateur Radio Wilderness Protocol may provide assistance to someone in dire straits. I encourage all ARES groups to include the Wilderness Protocol in their local membership manuals and to recommend to their membership to monitor the associated frequencies as regularly as they want their membership to be monitoring their local ARES repeaters.

Michael Potaczala KC4NUS

YOUR 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left To Right: Wes K7WWG; Don KK7TN; Phil K2ASP; Pat KC7TOA; Alvin KB7VHI; Everett W6ABM; Will N7THL; Robert WN7O. Missing is Steven KE7EIQ.